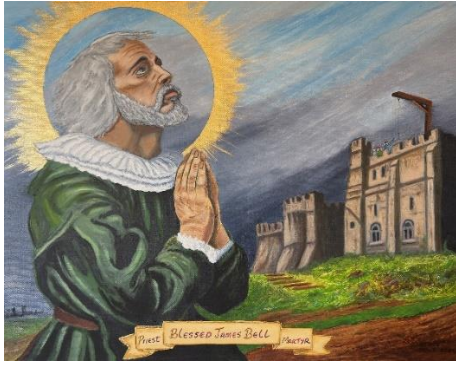


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



Parish Feast of Blessed James Bell

Sunday 26 October 2025

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

By all your saints still striving (372)

Greeting & Introduction

Gloria

Music: Little Organ Mass – Joseph Haydn

Collect

Almighty God,
who in this country raised up martyrs
from every walk of life
to vindicate the authority of your Church
in teaching and worship,
grant through the intercession of Blessed James Bell,
that all people may be gathered once again
to celebrate the same sacraments
under the one Shepherd, Jesus Christ your Son.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

First Reading

(Sirach 35: 15-17, 20-22)

A reading from the book of Sirach

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.
- 2 The Lord confronts the evildoers,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.
When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.

Second Reading

(2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Luke 18: 9-14)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

James Bell was born in Warrington in 1524, martyred at Lancaster on 20 April 1584, and beatified in 1929.

A Profession of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Prayer of Rededication

God our Father,
we, your pilgrim people,
gather in your presence and ask your blessing
as we seek to serve you and your people.

Under the patronage of Blessed James Bell,
and in communion with the whole Church,
form us into a community,
built on the fidelity of those who have gone before us.

May we take to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus
and go into the world
to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
may your Word take root in our hearts inspiring us
to gather and give thanks in the eucharist,
to serve you in our love for one another,
and to reach out in welcome to all people,
especially those most in need.

United with other Christian communities in this area,
may our parish be a source of grace and blessing
for the local community,
and so help to build your kingdom of justice,
love and peace.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Song: In bread we bring you (609)

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with such serenity and kindness,
we pray, O Lord,
upon these present offerings,
that they may be filled
with the blessing of the Holy Spirit
and may stir in our hearts that powerful love
through which Blessed James Bell
overcame every bodily torment.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ our Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Our Father

Notre père... Tève Mūsū... Vater unser... Ojczy nasz...
Padre nostro... 我們的天父

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around
you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

St O: Jesus remember me (253)

Prayer after Communion

Restored by the sustenance of the one Bread, O Lord,
in commemoration of the blessed Martyr, James Bell,
we humbly pray,
that you may confirm us ever in your charity
and make us walk in newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Blessed feasts of blessed martyrs (375)

Acknowledgements

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The picture at the top of the service sheet is an image of Blessed James Bell painted for the parish by Kevin Holt.